

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer in the form of its  
2 aqueous dispersions or of its water-redispersible powders, comprising homo- or  
3 copolymers of one or more monomers from the group consisting of vinyl esters of  
4 optionally branched alkyl carboxylic acids having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms,  
5 (meth)acrylic esters of alcohols having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms, vinylaromatics,  
6 olefins, dienes, and vinyl halides, wherein partially hydrolyzed vinyl acetate-  
7 ethylene copolymers with an ethylene content of from 1 to 15 mol%, with a degree  
8 of hydrolysis DH of the vinyl acetate units of  $80 \text{ mol\%} < \text{DH} < 95 \text{ mol\%}$ , and  
9 with a Höppler viscosity, in 4% by weight aqueous solution, of from 2 to 30 mPas,  
10 as measured by the Höppler method at 20°C, according to DIN 53015, are present  
11 as protective colloids.

1                   2.       The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 1,  
2 wherein the degree of hydrolysis DH of the partially hydrolyzed vinyl acetate-  
3 ethylene copolymers is from 85 to 90 mol%.

1                   3.       The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 1,  
2 wherein the ethylene content of the partially hydrolyzed vinyl acetate-ethylene  
3 copolymers is from 1 to 5 mol%.

1                   4.       The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 2,  
2 wherein the ethylene content of the partially hydrolyzed vinyl acetate-ethylene  
3 copolymers is from 1 to 5 mol%.

1                   5.       The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 1,  
2 wherein the protective colloid content is from 3 to 30% by weight, based on the  
3 base polymer.

1                   6.       The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 2,  
2 wherein the protective colloid content is from 3 to 30% by weight, based on the  
3 base polymer.

1                   7.     The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 3,  
2     wherein the protective colloid content is from 3 to 30% by weight, based on the  
3     base polymer.

1                   8.     The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 4,  
2     wherein the protective colloid content is from 3 to 30% by weight, based on the  
3     base polymer.

1                   9.     The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 1,  
2     wherein the selection of monomer and the selection of the parts by weight of any  
3     comonomers for the base polymer is such that the base polymer has a glass  
4     transition temperature T<sub>g</sub> of from -50°C to +50°C.

1                   10.    The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 1,  
2     wherein from 0.05 to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the base polymer,  
3     of auxiliary monomers are also copolymerized.

1                   11.    A process for preparing the protective-colloid-stabilized base  
2     polymer of claim 1, comprising polymerizing by an emulsion polymerization process  
3     or a suspension polymerization process, and where the base polymer is in the form  
4     of redispersible polymer powders, drying the resultant aqueous dispersion.

1                   12.    In a formulation comprising an inorganic, hydraulically setting  
2     binder and a protective-colloid-stabilized polymer, the improvement comprising  
3     selecting as at least one protective-colloid-stabilized polymer, the protective  
4     stabilized polymer of claim 1.

1                   13.    The formulation of claim 12, which is selected from the group  
2     consisting of construction adhesives, plasters, renders, trowelling compositions,  
3     floor-filling compositions, jointing mortars, and paints.

1                    14.     A coating composition or adhesive containing, as the sole  
2 binder, the protective-colloid-stabilized polymer of claim 1.

1                    15.     A composition for the coating or binding of textiles or paper  
2 containing, as the sole binder, the protective-colloid-stabilized polymer of claim 1.